

The Business Diversity Development office will be highlighting the great work of some of our certified companies over the coming weeks. We hope you will enjoy getting to know them as much as we have.

Simply, the BEST

Kim Garner and Debbie Rudawski

BEST Transportation



Passengers board a Go Best Express shuttle at Lambert Airport in Terminal 1.

If you have ever taken a taxi cab to the airport or reserved a limousine for a night out on the town, you were using the services of one of the oldest transportation companies in St. Louis. This year marks the 80th anniversary for St. Louis County Cab and Yellow Cab. Sisters Kim Garner and Debbie Rudawski own and operate the third generation family business with their father.

In 2002, with a few sedan chauffeured vehicles, the sisters branched out and started BEST Transportation. Today, the company is considered the largest full service limousine company in St. Louis.

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and the City of St. Louis are playing a major role in helping the sisters grow their business in new transportation segments. The sisters created a shared-ride division and branded it, Go Best Express. In 2009 the company won the official Lambert-St. Louis International Airport shared ride shuttle service concession contract.

"I think Lambert has been very beneficial to our bottom line," said President and Co-Owner Kim Gardner.



Kim Garner at Go Best Express counter in Lambert Airport Terminal 1.

"Basically, that whole division on the shared ride shuttle service was born because of our partnership at Lambert," she said. Go Best Express accounts for 20% of the company's business.

"The Lambert contract has helped us get business outside the airport," said Gardner.

Kim and Debbie developed their relationship with Lambert Airport through the certification process. Best Transportation is certified with Lambert Airport as a Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE).

"I went to all the classes offered by the Airport to learn about the documentation and how to follow the process," said Garner.

"It was an extremely thorough application process. I have a binder that is four to five inches thick with all the documents in it," she said.



Kim Garner talks with attendee Andre Holman at the 2015 Business Diversity Fair on March 27.

Garner recommends anyone wanting to do business at Lambert Airport should check out the certification process. "It's a time commitment. But it's good because they are properly vetting and making sure everything checks out on your application."

BEST Transportation employs 115 team members, 65 of them are chauffeurs. They operate 24 hours and seven days a week at Lambert Airport. The company will celebrate its 13th anniversary in July.

More information on certification and upcoming events may be found at www.flystl.com/businessdiversity or by calling Business Diversity Development at 314-426-8111.